

Lou Ann Ligon

Good afternoon. I am Lou Ann Ligon from Dallas, speaking on behalf of the many senior citizens who do not have the breath to be here.

I am 72 years old; therefore, one of those the OMB is requiring the EPA to design regulations that assume the life of an American over 70 years of age is worth 62% that of a younger American. I shall probably die prematurely because of the air pollution in our skies emitted by electric plants alone.

I am here to talk about a matter of life and death. Recently, I have been working to promote a moratorium on executions in Texas and to prevent cuts in CHIP and Medicaid. In thinking about the listening session this afternoon, I realized a relationship among my most prominent concerns. For some people, the power polluting plants are a death penalty and some of our children and the elderly succumb to a slow, debilitating, painful execution.

The number of asthma cases has doubled in the last decade. Last week I met a group of concerned parents and grandparents from the extremely-polluted Port Arthur area. Some of their babies are born with respiratory problems and must receive respiratory therapy three times a day every day. If this is a matter of life and death for them, we know it is also a matter of life and death for the elderly. Now there is even a greater need for clean air for our precious children since Chip and Medicaid are severely cut.

I have C.O.P.D. and emphysema. I supported the smoking ban in Dallas (which passed) and bought a Toyota Prius (a hybrid), but I am depending on the EPA and our legislators to quit killing our children and the elderly by allowing owners of our country's oldest and dirtiest power plants, oil refineries, and factories to increase harmful air pollution by enormous amounts without having to cleanups. I am depending on the EPA and our legislators to quit letting our elderly be killed by chemical weapons like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, fine particulate soot, ground level ozone, and mercury.

Unhealthy Air costs Texans billions. Protecting health saves money.

Please don't trade our health for corporate wealth. It is a matter of life and death.

Please lessen the chemical weapons sentencing us to death. Please give us a chance to have fresh, clean air to breathe for life.